

**EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT**

1. An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it **MUST** be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.
2. Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with Manish Mehta on December 18, 2009.

The application has been amended as follows:

In regards to **claim 48**,

at line 10, remove the limitation "and";

at line 16, replace the limitations "of high stiffness adjacent to" with --  
abutting , and having a stiffness equivalent to--;

at line 26, insert the limitations --and a coil extending from the semi-stiff  
zone to a distal portion of the distal zone-- after the limitations "damage to the  
valve."

In regards to **claim 49**,

at line 17, remove the limitations "of high stiffness adjacent to" and  
replace with --having a distal portion abutting, and having a stiffness equivalent to--;

at line 21, insert the limitations --and a coil extending from the third  
zone to a distal portion of the first zone-- after the limitations "from 5 cm to 20 cm."

***Allowable Subject Matter***

3. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:

No prior art of record teaches or fairly suggests a guidewire comprising five different sequential zones of varying stiffness from a first zone to a fifth zone such that the first zone forms a proximal section of semi-high stiffness, the second zone forms a central portion of high and constant stiffness, the third zone forms a section having a proximal portion of equal stiffness as the second zone that narrows into a distal portion of semi-stiffness, a fourth zone forms a transitional section whose stiffness includes a semi-stiff proximal that reduces to flexible distal portion, and the fifth zone forms a section of highest stiffness; wherein the third, fourth and fifth zones includes a first curve with a radius of curvature of 5 cm to 15 cm; wherein the fifth zone includes a second curvature having a radius of 5 to 20 mm.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

#### ***Conclusion***

4. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to RENE TOWA whose telephone number is (571)272-8758. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F, 2:00PM-10:00PM.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Max Hindenburg can be reached on (571) 272-4726. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/Rene Towa/  
Examiner, Art Unit 3736

/Max Hindenburg/  
Supervisory Patent Examiner, Art Unit 3736